

WASHINGTON – U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) today announced that Tyndall Air Force Base is among the final bases being considered by the U.S. Air Force for placement of additional F-22 Raptors.

“For more than a year, the Bay Defense Alliance and I have been working to secure a viable and sustainable follow-on mission for Tyndall, most prominently securing additional F-22s for the base,” said Congressman Boyd. “I’m pleased to say our efforts are paying off. Today I received confirmation from the Air Force that Tyndall is a final candidate being considered to receive additional F-22 Raptors. This is extremely promising news for our community as placement of additional F-22’s could bring up to 500 new jobs to our area. We will continue to work closely with the Air Force during the last stages of this process and look forward to a final announcement in the coming months.”

Ever since the retirement of the F-15 mission was announced by the Air Force, securing a viable follow-on mission for Tyndall has been one of Congressman Boyd’s top priorities. In addition to regular conversations he has had with senior Air Force personnel over the past 18 months, Congressman Boyd has included language in the FY2011 Defense Authorization bill that encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to proceed with the relocation decision expeditiously. The language seeks to put Tyndall in the most favorable light possible and encourages the Secretary of the Air Force to “promptly replace aviation assets that have already been reduced at affected installations with aviation assets of a similar mission.” The language also directs the Secretary to complete a full cost benefit analysis prior to the re-location decision to better understand the capacity at existing F-22 installations.

“This achievement is the result of Congressman Boyd’s ongoing efforts to build a productive, valuable relationship with senior leaders at the Air Force,” said Tom Neubauer, President of the Bay Defense Alliance. “This relationship has afforded our community the opportunity to present the outstanding capabilities of Tyndall to Air Force leadership as we work to secure a replacement mission for F-15 Air Superiority training in the future. We will continue working closely with Congressman Boyd and coordinating the actions of the Bay Defense Alliance with his office to attain maximum benefit for the Bay County community.”

The other bases being considered for additional F-22s are Elmendorf AFB in Alaska, Langley AFB in Virginia and Holloman AFB in New Mexico. Over the coming months, the Air Force will score each of the four bases being considered in accordance with a specific criterion it has established, complete environmental impact studies of the bases and an operational needs assessment, with the goal of making a final decision in August.

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